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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Shinichi WATANABE et al.

Group Art Unit: 2621

Appln. No. : 09/995,714

Examiner: P. Tran

Filed : November 29, 2001

For : INFORMATION COMMUNICATION APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents

RECEIVED

PO Box 1450

MAY 06 2003

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Technology Center 2600

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby call the following documents, which were cited in a Japanese Office Action issued in a corresponding Japanese Patent Application, to the Examiner's attention:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. SHO 63-221738, which was published on September 14, 1988, together with an English language Abstract of the same;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 7-200721, which was published on August 4, 1995, together with an English language Abstract of the same;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 8-163303, which was published on June 21, 1996, together with an English language Abstract of the same;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 11-313190, which was published on November 9, 1999, together with an English language Abstract of the same; and

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2000-332991, which was published on

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November 30, 2000, together with an English language Abstract of the same.

Applicants note that a copy of the Japanese Office Action is not available at the time of the filing of this statement. However, Applicants will endeavor to obtain a copy of the Japanese Office Action, together with an English language translation, and forward a copy of the same to the Examiner in due course.

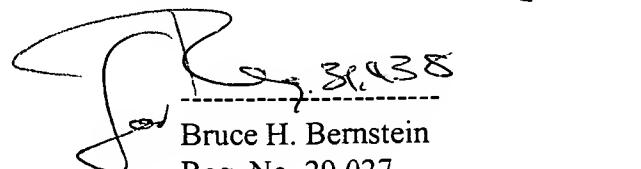
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above materials and cite the patent documents. Copies of the above-noted documents are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not yet issued in the instant application, and thus, no fee is necessary to ensure consideration of this statement. However, if an Office Action has issued and is crossing in the mail with this statement, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0089 any fee necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted materials.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shinichi WATANABE et al.

May 5, 2003  
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